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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Ninth session
New York, 3-13 September 1996
Agenda item 2

DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its decision 8/2, adopted at its eighth session, the INCD decided:

(a) "to invite members of the Committee to submit to the Interim Secretariat by 1 June 1996 written comments regarding the note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the administrative arrangements for the Permanent Secretariat contained in document A/AC.241/44";

(b) "to request relevant international organizations and departments and programmes of the United Nations, as well as agencies of the United Nations system, particularly those referred to in paragraph 8 of the note of the Secretary-General, to submit to the Interim Secretariat in writing by 1 June 1996:

(i) expressions of interest in providing overall administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat;

(ii) information to justify this interest and to describe the possible nature of such support on the basis of the criteria in Annex I to document A/AC.241/34; and/or

(iii) indications of which of these support services could also be provided as an adjunct to overall arrangements between the Conference of the Parties and the United Nations of the type outlined in the note by the Secretary-General"; and

(c) to request the Interim Secretariat to compile the materials referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

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2. As of 20 June, the Interim Secretariat received written comments from one Government regarding the Secretary-General's note. Those comments suggested that, in order to accord strictly with Article 22, paragraph 2 (g) of the Convention, paragraph 19 of the Secretary-General's note should refer to the formulation, review and approval of the administrative budget of the Convention as being in the purview of the Conference of the Parties alone and not in the purview of the Permanent Secretariat.

3. The Interim Secretariat also received expressions of interest in providing administrative support to the Permanent Secretariat from the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Documents A/AC.241/55/Add.1, 2 and 3 contain the offers of UNDP, UNEP and WMO respectively.

4. In the course of the eight session of the Committee, Section F of the Secretary-General's note was amended. The complete text of Section F now reads as follows:

> "F. Reimbursements and charges
>
> 21. In view of the considerations in paragraphs 3 to 6 above, the Secretary-General would request the General Assembly to approve the following arrangements regarding reimbursements: the reimbursements made to the United Nations for administering trust funds would be levied on the basis of actual costs incurred. The level of overhead charges would be determined once the source of administrative support has been decided."